



Figure 9.4. Average percentage of total bay scallop landings by waterbody for three distinct time periods: 1972-1981, 1982-1993, and 1994-2004. Other waterbodies include: Inland waterways, New River, White Oak River, Neuse River, Newport River, Stump Sound, and Topsail Sound. DMF Trip Ticket Program.

Trip/ Vessel Harvest Limits

Trip or vessel harvest limits have already been in place in the bay scallop fishery for some time. Twenty standard U.S. bushels per person per day not to exceed a total of 40 standard U.S. bushels per day is allowed during the regular January through May commercial season. When the limited season from August 1 through September 15 is open, no more than 10 standard U.S. bushels per person per day not to exceed a total of 20 standard U.S. bushels per day is allowed. Proclamation authority has issued lower trip limits in recent years.

Gear Restrictions

Gear restrictions are already in place to reduce impacts on seagrass beds where bay scallops are found. Hand rakes are limited to no more than 12 inches wide or weighing more than six pounds. Bay scallop dredges cannot weigh more than 50 pounds and cannot be equipped with teeth. Any other instrument or device designed to drag the bottom to aid in the taking of bay scallops is also prohibited. Concern for habitat loss makes scallop dredging an intensely managed portion of the fishery and typically is only allowed to harvest two days a week. No dredging was allowed in Bogue Sound from 1993 to 1997. Beginning in 2000, dredging has been delayed until later in the season after scallops have been harvested out of the shallow areas. No mechanical harvest occurred in 2001 (Figure 9.5).